

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 /095 W

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R 271921Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9671

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2963

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECIN, XM, UY

SUBJECT: FURTHER URUGUAYAN VIEWS ON SELA

REF: MONTEVIDEO 2544

1. SUMMARY. IN RECENT DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFFS FON-MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN COMMERCE AMB. MAGARINOS FURTHER CLARIFIED GOU'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS SELA, OUTLINING A NUMBER OF GOU RESERVATIONS. THESE INCLUDE HOW SELA WOULD BE STRUCTURED, HOW IT WOULD RELATE TO OTHER HEMISPHERIC AND EXTRA-HEMISPHERIC ORGANIZATIONS AND WHETHER IT WOULD OR COULD FUNCTION IN THE MANNER CONTEMPLATED BY ITS PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS. GOU WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO REQUIRE OTHERS TO FOCUS ON OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF SELA RATHER THAN THEORETICAL CONCEPTS. GOU REMAINS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE PROPOSED ORGANIZATION, AND  
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PARTICULARLY ITS ABILITY TO ACT AS A CONSULTATIVE ORGAN

INASMUCH AS SO MANY DIFFERENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFFS HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS GOU VIEWS ON SELA WITH AMB. GUSTAVO MAGARINOS, DIRECTOR FOREIGN COMMERCE, FONMIN, WHO REPRESENTED GOU AT RECENT PANAMA MEETING.

3. MAGARINOS STATED HE HAD GONE TO PANAMA MEETING WITH VIEW TO OBTAINING AS MUCH CLARIFICATION AS POSSIBLE OF ENVISAGED STRUCTURE OF SELA, ITS PURPOSES AND HOW IT WOULD RELATE TO OTHER HEMISPHERIC AND EXTRA-HEMISPHERIC ENTITIES. FOR THIS PURPOSE, HE SAID HE HAD PRESENTED ABOUT 20 WRITTEN MEMORANDA CONTAINING DETAILED QUESTIONS. GOU NOT SATISFIED WITH ATTEMPTS AT PANAMA TO ANSWER MANY OF QUESTIONS RAISED, BUT NEVERTHELESS HAD TO AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO CONCEPT OF "A" RPT "A" LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM AS OPPOSED TO "THE" LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM. HE INDICATED GOU WILL HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR MEETING OF EXPERTS AND FOR NEXT CONFERENCE ITSELF, BUT THOUGHT THAT IN END SELA WOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND THAT GOU WOULD HAVE TO GO ALONG DESPITE PRESENT RESERVATIONS. TO DO OTHERWISE, HE SAID, WOULD BE AKIN TO U.S. TAKING A STANCE OPPOSED TO WORLD PEACE.

4. MAGARINOS CLAIMED THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES HAD RESERVATIONS SIMILAR TO THE GOU'S AND WHILE SOME DID NOT SPEAK OUT AT PANAMA MEETING, THEIR REPRESENTATIVES HAD CONTACTED HIM PRIVATELY TO EXPRESS AGREEMENT WITH GOU'S APPROACH. HE LISTED AMONG THESE HAITI, COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND THE OTHER SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY BRAZIL, WHICH OF COURSE DID TAKE ACTIVE ROLE IN MEETING AND WHOSE POSITION WAS KNOWN IN ADVANCE. MAGARINOS DESCRIBED THE CUBAN ROLE AS BEING LARGELY LOWKEY, TECHNICAL AND "CORRECT" IN NATURE.

5. MAGARINOS SAID THE GOU WANTS TO AVOID ANYTHING IN SELA'S STRUCTURE OR OPERATIONS THAT SMACKS OF A CONFRONTATIONAL APPROACH WITH THE U.S. EVEN THOUGH THE NEW DIALOGUE HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED, HE SAID, THE BASIS FOR SUCH DIALOGUE HAS BEEN LAID AND THE GOU WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE ANYTHING DEVELOP THAT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THAT HEALTHY TREND.

6. AS FOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, MAGARINOS SAID HE STILL WANTED TO KNOW HOW SELA WOULD BE RELATED TO EXISTING HEMISPHERIC ORGANIZATIONS AND WHETHER IT WOULD DUPLICATE THEIR WORK. WOULD SELA ACT AS A LATIN AMERICAN CAUCUS ORGANIZER AND, IF SO, WHAT MEANS FOR CONSULTATION WOULD BE DEVELOPED? FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR SPEAK ONLY FOR THEMSELVES AT OPEC MEETINGS OR FOR SELA? IF SELA IS MEANT TO COORDINATE AND UNIFY LA VIEWS, THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A RADICAL CHANGE IN LA APPROACHES TO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, INCLUDING NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCES AND THE GROUP OF 77, AND SOMEHOW THE ORGANIZATION WOULD HAVE

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TO REFLECT THE VIEWS OF ALL. MAGARINOS WAS CLEARLY SKEPTICAL ON THIS SCORE. THESE THOUGHTS, HE SAID, ARE VERY MUCH BEFORE THE GOU, BUT APPEAR NOT TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN REAL CONSIDERATION BY THOSE WHO ARE PUSHING FOR SELA'S IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT.

7. COMMENT: WHILE GOU SKEPTICISM RE SELA HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, IT APPEARS CLEAR FROM MAGARINOS ACCOUNT THAT THE GOU IS DETERMINED TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO GET BOTH THE NEXT EXPERTS' MEETING AND THE NEXT CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON HOW SELA ACTUALLY WILL OPERATE, RATHER THAN ON THEORETICAL CONCEPTS. THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GOU WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IS QUESTIONABLE, BUT ISSUES SUCH AS THOSE RAISED BY MAGARINOS SHOULD AT LEAST FORCE SOME THOUGHT AND RESPONSE BY SELA'S MORE FERVENT EXPONENTS. MAGARINOS, AND THE GOU FOREIGN OFFICE GENERALLY, TAKES A DIM VIEW OF THE PROLIFERATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THEY EVIDENTLY FEEL THAT IF THE BASIC QUESTIONS ARE NOT ANSWERED NOW THEY MAY WIND UP WITH A GROUPING WHOSE MEMBERS HAVE NOT REALLY AGREED ON A MANDATE AND WHICH WILL BE NOT MUCH MORE THAN A PROPAGANDA AND POLITICAL FORUM FOR A FEW COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, IF SELA DOES BECOME A CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION, THE GOU WANTS TO INSURE THAT JOINT POSITIONS ARE INDEED THAT.

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